

MEMORANDUM
OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY EXECUTIVE
COUNTY OF PLACER

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Thomas M. Miller, County Executive Officer
By: Rui Cunha, Assistant Director, Emergency Services

DATE: April 5, 2011

SUBJECT: Informational presentation regarding propane leaks occurring on the eastern side of the County due in part to extreme snow loading.

ACTION REQUESTED

That your Board receive an update and informational briefing concerning actions undertaken to address number of propane tank leaks occurring on the eastern side of the County due primarily to extreme snow loading.

BACKGROUND

There have been numerous incidents in the past several weeks in homes located at higher elevations of the Sierras involving propane tank leaks. These leaks, all of which qualify as hazardous materials incidents, have been caused in most part by snow loading occurring on the tanks themselves, the control valves and the gas lines into the residences. The record snowfall has taxed fire, law enforcement and County agencies due to the increased amount of time required to gain access to a leaking tank which is often buried in 20'-30' of snow.

Emergency Services, Sheriff's Office and Community Outreach staff have been and will continue to work with local fire districts and related agencies to educate homeowners as well as to respond to such incidents as they occur.

PRESENTATION

This presentation will address incident details; impacts to communities and responding agencies; near and longer term efforts to reduce the occurrence of similar incidents.

Jill Pahl, Director of Environmental Health, and Rui Cunha, Assistant Director of Emergency Services will present this item.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no impact to Placer County as this is informational only.

